

AUG 31 2007

Attorney Docket DP-309619

Remarks

Claim 18 has been amended to more clearly specify the order of the claimed steps and is supported by the specification in paragraph [0025], although Applicants believe that order to be inherent in the claim before amendment since each step refers to an antecedent basis from the previous step.

The Office Action rejects claims 18, 22, 24, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kim U.S. Patent 6,855,661. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claim 18 (and therefore each of dependent claims 22, 24, and 26-26) requires a step of mixing an already-formed titanium alkoxide with an already-formed zirconium alkoxide. The Kim reference fails to disclose this step, as claimed by Applicants. Claim 18 of the Kim reference, cited in the Office Action, refers to "preparing a solution of precursors of a zirconia-titania composite oxide", but the claim fails to specify how that solution is prepared. Disclosure of how to prepare Kim's solution of precursors of a zirconia-titania composite oxide is provided in the reference at col. 5, line 57 – col. 6, line 22. There, at col. 6, line 4, the reference discloses using mixtures of the oxide precursors (e.g., mixtures of titanium and zirconium salts), it does not disclose mixing an already-formed titanium alkoxide with an already-formed zirconium alkoxide as required by Applicants' claims. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 18, 22, 24, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kim should be withdrawn.

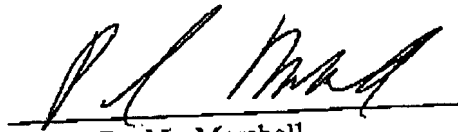
The Office Action also rejects claims 19, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kim in view of Manzer et al. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the remarks above, this rejection is moot as the parent claim 18 of each of the rejected claims 19, 21, and 23 is patentable over the primary Kim reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 19, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated unpatentable over Kim in view of Manzer et al should be withdrawn.

As the application appears to be otherwise in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request early action toward that end. If there are any additional charges with respect

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to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0831 maintained by Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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